

# Notes and Brief Reports

## Disability Insurance Benefits in Current-Payments Status, by State, February 28, 1959\*

At the end of February 1959, the old-age, survivors, and disability insurance program was paying disability insurance benefits to 255,000 disabled workers aged 50-64—a 70-percent increase from the number in December 1957. The accompanying table shows the average monthly benefit amount as of February 28, 1959, and gives a percentage distribution of the number of beneficiaries according to the size of their benefit. The data are classified by the beneficiaries' State of residence at the end of February 1959.

In February 1959 the average disability insurance benefit amounted to \$88.11—\$15.35 more than the average in December 1957. The higher average resulted chiefly from provisions in the 1958 amendments that (1) repealed, effective August 1958, the "offset" provision, under which disability insurance benefits were reduced by payments based on disability payable under certain other programs, and (2) increased benefits by about 7 percent, effective January 1959. Another factor increasing the average benefit was the rise in the proportion of benefits computed on the basis of earnings after 1950; the proportion increased from 62 percent in December 1957 to almost 69 percent in November 1958, the latest date for which this information is available. The average disability insurance benefit went up in each of the 14 months—from \$72.76 in December 1957 to \$88.11 in February 1959.

Almost half of all disabled-worker beneficiaries were receiving monthly benefits of \$90-\$116. The proportion receiving the maximum amount—\$116 in February 1959 and \$108.50 in December 1957—increased from 1.4 percent in December 1957 to 7.2 percent in February 1959. Forty-four

percent were receiving benefits in the \$60-\$89 range, and only 1 in 15 was receiving less than \$60.00. Minimum benefits were being paid to only 0.2 percent of all disabled-worker beneficiaries.

Among the 50 States and the District of Columbia, disability insurance beneficiaries living in Alaska

and Michigan were receiving the highest monthly benefits—an average of \$96.39 in Alaska and \$95.93 in Michigan—and those in Mississippi were receiving the lowest benefits—an average of \$77.81. Benefits ranging from \$90 to \$116 were being paid to 67 percent of the disabled-worker beneficiaries in Michigan and to 27 percent in Mississippi. Only 14 percent of the disability insurance beneficiaries in Michigan but 48 percent

Number and average monthly amount of disability insurance benefits<sup>1</sup> in current-payment status and percentage distribution by amount of benefit, by State, February 28, 1959

State <sup>2</sup> (ranked by size of average benefit)	Average dis- ability benefit	Number of dis- ability bene- ficiaries	Percent of disability beneficiaries receiving—								
			Total	\$33	\$34- 44	\$45- 59	\$60- 74	\$75- 89	\$90- 104	\$105- 115	\$116
Total.....	\$88.11	254,701	100.0	0.2	0.9	5.6	19.1	25.4	20.4	21.2	7.2
Alaska.....	96.39	69	100.0	0	0	2.9	10.3	16.2	19.1	41.2	10.3
Michigan.....	95.93	10,010	100.0	(3)	.3	2.5	10.8	19.2	20.5	33.5	13.2
Connecticut.....	91.99	3,933	100.0	.1	.2	2.7	14.8	24.8	23.6	24.8	9.0
Ohio.....	91.98	13,638	100.0	.1	.4	3.5	14.8	23.6	21.6	26.5	9.5
Arizona.....	91.88	2,089	100.0	.1	.4	3.4	13.9	25.2	21.2	25.0	10.8
New Jersey.....	91.83	9,029	100.0	.1	.4	3.3	15.5	23.4	22.4	25.1	9.8
California.....	91.74	18,798	100.0	(3)	.3	3.4	15.0	24.7	21.2	26.4	9.0
Washington.....	91.57	3,890	100.0	.1	.2	3.0	15.2	24.7	23.5	26.6	6.7
Indiana.....	91.50	6,519	100.0	.1	.6	4.2	15.0	22.9	22.2	26.0	9.0
Nevada.....	91.43	271	100.0	0	0	3.4	16.5	24.4	22.6	24.8	8.3
Wisconsin.....	91.18	4,843	100.0	.3	.7	4.2	16.2	22.1	21.7	24.8	10.0
Utah.....	91.01	576	100.0	.2	.5	4.6	15.4	24.5	21.4	21.9	11.5
Pennsylvania.....	90.88	21,136	100.0	.1	.6	3.7	14.3	25.3	26.1	23.1	6.8
Oregon.....	90.86	2,194	100.0	.2	.3	3.0	16.1	24.2	24.4	25.2	6.6
West Virginia.....	90.83	4,809	100.0	(3)	.6	3.7	13.7	27.1	23.4	24.7	6.8
Illinois.....	90.58	13,993	100.0	.2	.6	4.4	16.7	23.4	21.2	24.6	8.9
Montana.....	90.12	754	100.0	.1	.9	5.8	17.2	24.6	16.6	23.0	11.8
Florida.....	89.95	8,893	100.0	.1	.9	5.4	17.4	22.3	18.6	25.7	9.6
Wyoming.....	89.72	269	100.0	.8	.4	4.9	16.5	24.2	23.5	23.5	7.2
Colorado.....	89.28	1,515	100.0	.1	.5	5.6	16.8	26.1	22.1	21.3	7.5
New York.....	89.16	27,280	100.0	.1	.5	4.7	18.4	25.9	20.5	21.7	8.2
Delaware.....	88.83	575	100.0	.4	.7	5.0	21.6	22.9	18.9	18.8	11.7
Idaho.....	88.63	559	100.0	0	.4	5.5	19.5	24.4	22.0	22.4	5.8
Minnesota.....	88.32	2,912	100.0	.2	1.0	6.1	19.1	23.2	21.4	22.1	6.9
Maryland.....	87.37	3,545	100.0	.1	.7	6.7	20.0	25.3	19.1	21.5	6.6
Hawaii.....	87.10	588	100.0	.2	.5	5.5	16.8	31.0	24.6	18.5	2.9
Kansas.....	86.84	2,275	100.0	.5	1.4	6.0	20.1	25.5	20.5	19.4	6.6
New Mexico.....	86.77	649	100.0	.2	.8	5.8	20.6	27.6	20.1	18.8	6.1
Massachusetts.....	86.59	9,000	100.0	.1	.4	5.0	21.6	29.5	20.9	17.2	5.3
Iowa.....	86.44	2,761	100.0	.2	1.2	5.9	20.8	26.7	20.8	19.0	5.4
Oklahoma.....	86.41	2,950	100.0	.2	1.1	7.3	21.6	23.4	20.0	19.9	6.5
Virgin Islands.....	86.40	5	100.0	0	0	0	40.0	0	40.0	20.0	0
Rhode Island.....	86.20	1,814	100.0	.1	.3	5.3	21.7	30.0	21.0	16.9	4.7
Missouri.....	85.82	6,432	100.0	.2	1.2	7.3	22.1	25.5	19.1	19.0	5.6
New Hampshire.....	85.70	944	100.0	0	1.0	4.5	22.2	31.5	21.6	14.9	4.3
Nebraska.....	84.96	1,338	100.0	.5	1.7	7.5	19.9	28.8	20.2	16.8	4.6
Kentucky.....	84.60	4,950	100.0	.3	1.6	7.5	21.9	27.8	19.8	16.5	4.6
Vermont.....	84.52	697	100.0	.4	1.0	7.0	21.8	29.5	21.8	14.8	3.7
South Dakota.....	84.44	421	100.0	.2	.7	8.0	22.0	27.4	22.5	16.5	2.7
Texas.....	84.16	10,210	100.0	.3	1.6	8.6	23.6	25.2	18.0	17.1	5.6
Dist. of Col.....	83.57	1,007	100.0	0	.6	7.2	26.2	29.5	19.7	13.3	3.5
Virginia.....	83.14	5,983	100.0	.4	1.8	8.0	24.9	27.5	18.4	14.5	4.5
Maine.....	83.04	1,702	100.0	.2	1.9	7.9	23.3	30.4	19.2	13.7	3.4
North Dakota.....	82.72	272	100.0	.4	.7	10.9	25.4	25.4	18.4	12.4	6.4
Tennessee.....	82.35	5,063	100.0	.3	2.0	8.4	25.7	28.6	16.6	14.0	4.4
Alabama.....	81.96	5,314	100.0	.7	2.1	8.4	25.7	28.1	17.4	14.0	3.6
Louisiana.....	81.19	4,209	100.0	.7	2.3	10.4	27.6	24.5	15.6	14.4	4.5
Arkansas.....	80.47	2,873	100.0	.4	2.7	11.0	26.8	26.7	15.5	12.8	4.1
Georgia.....	78.61	6,178	100.0	.7	2.4	10.4	30.8	28.7	14.0	10.0	3.0
South Carolina.....	78.54	3,677	100.0	.4	1.9	10.8	30.2	31.3	15.0	8.4	2.0
North Carolina.....	78.38	7,541	100.0	.3	1.6	10.5	31.7	31.1	14.0	8.4	2.4
Mississippi.....	77.81	2,681	100.0	.6	3.0	11.7	32.4	25.2	13.9	10.1	3.1
Puerto Rico.....	65.51	303	100.0	5.1	16.8	19.9	22.1	19.9	10.1	5.4	.7
Foreign.....	92.98	765	100.0	0	.3	1.6	10.7	26.9	25.3	29.2	6.0

\* Prepared in the Division of Program Analysis, Bureau of Old-Age and Survivors Insurance.

<sup>1</sup> Payable to disabled workers aged 50-64.

<sup>2</sup> Beneficiary's State of residence.

<sup>3</sup> Less than 0.05 percent.

of those in Mississippi were receiving benefits of \$33-\$74.

## Coverage of State and Local Government Employees Under OASDI\*

Old-age, survivors, and disability insurance coverage of State and local government employees has increased in each of the 8 years that the protection of the Federal program has been available to this group. As of January 1959 about 3¼ million, or 55

**Table 1.—State and local government employment, total number and number covered under OASDI through voluntary agreements, October 1950-58 and January 1959**

[Numbers in thousands]

Month	State and local government employment <sup>1</sup>			
	Continental United States			Total number covered under OASDI <sup>3</sup>
	Total number <sup>2</sup>	Covered under OASDI		
		Number	Percent of total	
October:				
1950.....	4,230	540	13	540
1951.....	4,230	695	16	735
1952.....	4,470	810	18	850
1953.....	4,610	960	20	1,000
1954.....	4,805	1,220	24	1,270
1955.....	5,005	1,935	37	1,985
1956.....	5,225	2,275	40	2,360
1957.....	5,700	3,180	54	3,295
1958.....	5,840	3,230	55	3,345
January 1959.	5,900			

<sup>1</sup> Excludes the District of Columbia, which is not included in the statutory definition of State for purposes of agreement.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes employment for transit systems compulsorily covered; based on data from the Bureau of the Census.

<sup>3</sup> Includes Alaska and Hawaii, and Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

<sup>4</sup> Estimated.

percent of the almost 6 million persons employed by State and local governments, were covered through voluntary agreements made by the States with the Federal Government.

\* Prepared in the Division of Program Analysis, Bureau of Old-Age and Survivors Insurance. Detailed data, by State and type of government unit, appear in a quarterly statistical report, *State and Local Government Employment Covered by Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance Under Section 218 of the Social Security Act*.

In October of 1951—the first year coverage for these workers was possible—more than half a million employees were covered; they represented approximately 13 percent of all persons employed by State or local governments at that time. The 55 percent covered in January 1959 was more than four times the proportion with coverage in October 1951, and the number of covered employees had increased to six times the number covered in 1951.

One reason for the rise in number was the growth in State and local government employment, which increased by more than 1½ million during the period October 1951-January 1959. The increase in the number of persons employed by State and local governments and in their coverage by old-age, survivors, and disability insurance under successive

amendments to the Social Security Act is shown in table 1.

The Social Security Act Amendments of 1950 permitted coverage, effective in 1951, of State and local government employees who were not protected by retirement systems. By October 1954 coverage under this provision had been extended to approximately 1 out of every 5 of these government employees. The 1954 amendments granted eligibility for coverage, effective in 1955, to most employees who were under a State or local retirement system. By October 1957, 2 out of every 5 State or local government employees were covered, including almost a million who were members of retirement systems. Under the 1956 amendments, specified States were permitted to divide positions under their retirement systems into two groups in order to provide

**Table 2.—State and local government employment covered under old-age, survivors, and disability insurance through voluntary agreements, by State, January 1959**

State	Number <sup>1</sup>	Approximate percent of all State and local government employment <sup>2</sup>				State	Number <sup>1</sup>	Approximate percent of all State and local government employment <sup>2</sup>			
		Total	Type of government					Total	Type of government		
			State	County	Local <sup>3</sup>				State	County	Local <sup>3</sup>
Total.....	3,346,100	( <sup>4</sup> )	( <sup>4</sup> )	( <sup>4</sup> )	( <sup>4</sup> )	Mississippi.....	58,800	80	91	82	70
Continental U.S.	3,227,900	55	65	70	48	Missouri.....	91,200	74	99	82	63
Alabama.....	83,200	87	86	98	85	Montana.....	23,300	84	91	142	64
Alaska.....	4,100	( <sup>4</sup> )	( <sup>4</sup> )	( <sup>4</sup> )	( <sup>4</sup> )	Nebraska.....	56,100	95	94	110	92
Arizona.....	36,100	87	87	106	83	Nevada.....	700	6	7	( <sup>4</sup> )	8
Arkansas.....	30,700	56	87	71	38	New Hampshire.....	19,900	85	90	133	80
California.....	51,200	9	( <sup>4</sup> )	17	10	New Jersey.....	151,300	83	101	80	79
Colorado.....	18,100	27	6	100	24	New Mexico.....	17,500	55	83	23	43
Connecticut.....	24,200	31	44	86	25	New York.....	450,000	71	85	80	61
Delaware.....	13,000	94	92	101	96	North Carolina.....	111,400	89	90	93	81
Dist. of Col.*						North Dakota.....	15,800	51	88	85	32
Florida.....	72,600	48	74	86	32	Ohio <sup>7</sup> .....					
Georgia.....	62,800	54	69	77	46	Oklahoma.....	62,800	75	79	99	68
Hawaii.....	13,300	( <sup>4</sup> )	( <sup>4</sup> )	( <sup>4</sup> )	( <sup>4</sup> )	Oregon.....	64,200	90	90	111	87
Idaho.....	23,700	88	97	112	79	Pennsylvania.....	241,200	79	80	94	77
Illinois.....	47,400	16	2	4	22	Puerto Rico.....	98,900	( <sup>4</sup> )	( <sup>4</sup> )	( <sup>4</sup> )	( <sup>4</sup> )
Indiana.....	118,100	80	72	92	81	Rhode Island.....	15,700	62	86	-----	50
Iowa.....	98,800	97	102	107	94	South Carolina.....	62,500	90	92	106	87
Kansas.....	77,300	79	82	99	74	South Dakota.....	24,600	78	84	115	70
Kentucky.....	48,000	60	99	82	37	Tennessee.....	63,500	59	69	69	45
Louisiana.....	31,200	27	10	50	34	Texas.....	141,000	48	96	97	24
Maine.....	7,300	20	13	38	23	Utah.....	32,300	96	105	108	88
Maryland.....	73,100	81	88	96	61	Vermont.....	9,200	57	74	89	47
Massachusetts.....	700	( <sup>4</sup> )	2	( <sup>4</sup> )	( <sup>4</sup> )	Virginia.....	109,900	96	94	106	88
Michigan.....	217,700	76	77	100	73	Virgin Islands.....	1,900	( <sup>4</sup> )	( <sup>4</sup> )	( <sup>4</sup> )	( <sup>4</sup> )
Minnesota.....	27,200	20	73	-----	1	Washington.....	94,900	86	85	93	86
						West Virginia.....	49,900	91	93	99	89
						Wisconsin.....	83,500	59	69	79	52
						Wyoming.....	14,300	90	92	124	80

<sup>1</sup> Estimated employment for which coverage has been approved, regardless of effective dates.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes employment for transit systems, compulsorily covered under old-age, survivors, and disability insurance. Based on data from the Bureau of the Census for October 1958 (latest available). Where the percentage exceeds 100, the excess is due primarily to the difference in reference

periods, and the percentage should be taken as 100

<sup>3</sup> Other than county governments.

<sup>4</sup> Not available.

<sup>5</sup> Less than 0.5 percent.

<sup>6</sup> Not included in the statutory definition of State for purposes of agreement.

<sup>7</sup> No agreement.